United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council decides to establish United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR); observers to be deployed on Ugandan side of border to verify that no military assistance reaches Rwanda.

+ General Assembly takes note of Security Council's report for period 16 June 1991 to 15 June 1992; agrees to include item on financing of peace-keeping in Cyprus on its agenda.

+ Special Envoy for Haiti receives positive reply from Commander-in-Chief of Haitian Armed Forces to invitation to open dialogue to resolve Haitian crisis; says meeting could be held before weekend.

+ Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference hold positive meeting with delegations from Krajina Serbs and Croatian Government, with view to establishing mechanism for negotiations between two sides.

+ UNOSOM II says Conference of Kismayo Elders will resume on Thursday; donors and non-governmental organizations discuss Somalia's needs in Nairobi.

+ Secretary-General, in Geneva, meets with ICRC Director, WHO Director-General and Co-Chairman of Yugoslav Conference; praises German support for peace-keeping prior to visit to Bonn tomorrow.

+ Secretary-General asks international community to support peaceful political process in Afghanistan; warns that Appeal for Afghan Humanitarian Assistance is seriously underfunded.

+ General Assembly President says United Nations should expand assistance to help former communist countries develop democratic institutions.

+ Commission on Sustainable Development decides on draft guidelines for information on UNCED follow-up; Governments would provide information to Secretariat for review of implementation of "Agenda 21".

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The Security Council today decided to establish the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR), to be deployed on the Ugandan side of the border for an initial period of six months, and subject to review every six months. The Mission will monitor the Uganda/Rwanda border to verify that no military assistance reaches Rwanda. The Council took that action by adopting unanimously resolution 846 (1993).

The Council asked the Secretary-General to conclude a status of mission agreement with the Government of Uganda before full deployment of UNOMUR, and approved the dispatching of an advance party within fifteen days, or as soon as possible after the conclusion of the status of mission agreement. UNOMUR would be fully deployed within thirty days of the advance party's arrival.

The Council urged the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) to respect the rules of international humanitarian law and to quickly conclude a comprehensive peace agreement. The Council asked the Secretary-General to report to it on the results of the ongoing peace talks in Arusha and to report on the implementation of resolution 846 within sixty days of the deployment of UNOMUR.

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Decision-making in the Security Council should be transparent and the membership of the United Nations should be informed of the motives for its actions, several representatives told the General Assembly today before it took note of the Council's annual report for the period 16 June 1991 to 15 June 1992. Some representatives said annual reports should be analytical rather than a compendium of the Council's activities.

Also today, the Assembly agreed to the Secretary-General's request to include an additional item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Forces in Cyprus" on its agenda and referred the matter to its Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary).

The Assembly observed a moment of silence in tribute to Hamadi Khouini, Permanent Representative of Tunisia, who died last week.

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The Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Haiti, Dante Caputo, today said he had received a "positive" reply from the Commander-in-Chief of the Haitian Armed Forces, General Raoul Cedras, to an invitation to initiate a dialogue with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide with a view to resolving the Haitian crisis.

The reply, in the form of a letter, opened up possibilities for fruitful negotiations, Mr. Caputo stressed. He said that he expected to hear from President Aristide by this evening, and that a meeting could take place before the weekend.

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Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, held a "positive" meeting in a "constructive" atmosphere in Geneva today with delegations from the Krajina Serbs and the Croatian Government, a United Nations spokesman said. The Co-Chairmen met individually with both sides before the plenary meeting. The purpose of the meetings was to establish a mechanism for negotiations between the two sides.

The Co-Chairmen were scheduled to meet tomorrow with the Bosnian Presidency, with 7 of the 10 members of the collective Presidency expected to attend, according to the spokesman. Meetings were also scheduled tomorrow with the representative of the Bosnian Presidency, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban.

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The Conference of Kismayo Elders will resume on Thursday in Kismayo, the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) announced today. Organizational sessions for the Conference ended on 3 June with a Declaration of Peace and Reconciliation which included an agenda of work. That agenda will be addressed by some 120 Elders from all communities in the Kismayo area. At their request, political faction leaders will not attend the Conference.

Meanwhile, some 70 representatives from donor countries and 10 representatives from non-governmental organizations met today in Nairobi, Kenya, to discuss recent developments and humanitarian needs in Somalia. The meeting was attended by the Secretary-General's Special Representative Admiral Jonathan Howe.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in Geneva, had meetings today with Cornelio Sommarruga, Director of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, and Martti Ahtisaari, chairman of a Conference working group. The Secretary-General also met with Germany's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office at Geneva concerning his one-day working visit to Bonn tomorrow.

In advance of that visit, the Secretary-General paid tribute to Germany for its support for United Nations peace-keeping operations. Its financial contributions had been augmented by its medical and logistical support for such vital missions as the United Nations Observer Group in Central America

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(ONUCA), the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), and the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), he said. Such support underlined the universality of responsibility for United Nations peace-keeping. He noted that international peace and security were, according to the United Nations Charter, the responsibility of all Member States.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, after consultations with Iran, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and the United States, today asked the international community to support the peaceful political process in Afghanistan, according to statement issued through a United Nations spokesman. He said every effort should be made to observe the cease-fire in Afghanistan to ensure the safety of civilians.

The Secretary-General reminded donor Governments that his Appeal for Afghan Humanitarian Assistance remained seriously underfunded. Without additional funding from the international community, essential United Nations programmes might be curtailed, he warned.

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The United Nations should expand assistance to help former communist countries develop democratic institutions, General Assembly President Stoyan Ganev (Bulgaria) told a workshop for Foreign Ministers of newly independent States which opened yesterday in Qawra, Malta. He praised Malta's initiative and creativity in bringing the workshop -- part of a five-day seminar -- to fruition and said it was a good example of the role a small country could play in promoting international cooperation.

The workshop was organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in cooperation with the Maltese Foreign Ministry. It brought together high-level officials from 18 newly independent States in Central Asia, the Baltics and Central and Eastern Europe, and representatives of international financial, development and educational organizations.

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The Commission on Sustainable Development yesterday took an ad referendum decision on guidelines for organizing information on the follow-up to last year's United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), and on a multi-year thematic programme. The texts will be officially adopted on Friday, as part of the report of the Commission's first session.

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Under the draft decision on the guidelines, Governments would be encouraged to provide suggested information to the Secretariat to enable the Commission to review progress in the implementation of "Agenda 21", UNCED's programme of action. The draft notes that the provision of information, including matters related to financial resources and technology transfers, would be voluntary. In order to properly analyze the information, the Commission would agree on the need for the Secretary-General to prepare reports using a standardized format that Governments might follow, taking into account the format of "Agenda 21".

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